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LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY (English)

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⑭ 液晶表示装置

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

液晶表示装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

(1) 少なくとも1枚の電極基板は、マトリックス状の半導体スイッチ素子群で構成されていて、2枚の電極基板間に液晶を封入してなる液晶表示パネルと、この表示パネルを駆動するために必要な外部回路を搭載した基板に、この表示パネルをはめ込むための隙を開けその周辺に接続端子を配置した外部回路基板とからなる液晶表示装置において、表示パネル基板と外部回路基板とを対峙するように配置し、その間に導電異方性^{導電異方性}膜を用いて両基板を電気的に接続することを特徴とする液晶表示装置。

(2) 表示パネル基板、導電異方性^{導電異方性}膜、外部回路基板相互の位置を固定するために両基板間にエポキシ接着剤を充填したことを特徴とする

特許請求の範囲第一項記載の液晶表示装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(発明の技術分野)

本発明は、固体化された表示パネルとこれを駆動するために必要な外部周辺回路との電気的接続方法に関する。

(発明の技術的背景及び問題点)

CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) による画像表示に替わるものとして BL (エレクトロルミネッセンス)、LED、液晶などを用いた平面型の固体表示パネルが実用化されて来た。CRT が電子ビームスポットを蛍光面上で順次走査して画像表示するのに対して、これら平面型固体表示パネルでは、行と列とからなるマトリックスの交点に順次電圧を印加することにより、それぞれ BL 発光、LED 発光、液晶の配向による光の透過性、反射性を利用して画像表示を行なう。従つて、平面固体表示パネルでは、表示する画像の精細度を高くする場合、或は写し出す画像情報を増やす場合には多数の行と列とからなるマトリックス構成にする必要がある。又、番号は各々独立に入力する必要から、マトリックス表示を駆動する回路とは行及び列の

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数だけの接続が必要となる。例えば、高精細表示では、行及び列はそれぞれ200～500本で構成するので、パネルと外部駆動回路との接続は各々400～1000本にも達し、接続の信頼性を保ちかつ確実な接続を遂成するため、端子を一本一本接続するコストは高い。又、表示の画質が高精細であるためには、マトリックスを構成する行及び列の配列ピッチは密であることが必要であり、従って高密度に実装するための高度の接続技術を必要とする。従来この接続には、ICの組立て用いる太さが約1.5μmのAuの細線を用いたワイヤボンディング方式が一般的である。しかしながら、通常のICの接続の数が20～30本であるのに比較して、表示パネルでは接続本数が桁違いに多く又、大面積にわたる接続となるため、接続の信頼性特に物理的接続強度の信頼性の低下と接続歩留りの低下が問題となる。

これを解決する方法として、Si単結晶基板又はアモルファス半導体薄膜を用いて、駆動回路と表示マトリックスの電極とを同一基板上に形成する

走査期間中保持され、表示電極上の液晶をスタックに駆動する。

このようなマトリックス状に配置したトランジスタ、蓄積容量、表示電極などは、Siウェハー上に通常のMOSトランジスタをつくると同様の工程で形成する。画素のサイズを例えば150μm×150μmとするとアドレスライン、データラインのピッチ間隔は150μmとなり表示パネルをコンパクトに実装するためには外部端子も時々同じピッチの寸法で配列し、外部回路と接続することになる。

第2図は表示パネルの構造を示す断面図である。MOSトランジスタアレイを形成したSi基板(1)には、アドレスラインを構成する電極群(2)、及びデータラインを構成する電極群(3)、これらの電極群を外部に接続する外部接続端子(4)でマトリックス状に配線が形成されている。このSi基板上にレーリング材料(5)を用いて液晶材料(6)を封入する。液晶に電圧を印加するために必要な一万の電極として透明導電膜(7)がフロントガラス基板(8)にあらかじめ付着している。この表示パネルをつくる場合

ことにより一体化し、外部回路との接続を減らす方策が考えられる。しかし、大面積の表示パネルに関しては、製造工程数の多い駆動回路を大面積パネルの一部に一体化して形成することは、パネルと駆動回路を別々に製作し接続するのに比較して可成りコスト高になる。第1図に表示部(画素)の電気的等価回路を示す。1つの画素はスイフトトランジスタ(高耐圧MOS FET)、蓄積容量及び液晶表示電極で構成され、この単位画素が縦横に220×240のマトリックス状に配置される。各スイフトトランジスタのゲートは行毎に共通に接続しアドレスライン G_1, G_2, \dots, G_m を設ける。又、ドレインは列毎に共通に接続しデータライン $D_1 \sim D_m$ を設ける。アドレスライン G_1, G_2, \dots, G_m は外部回路により順次方式で駆動する。データライン D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m はやはり外部回路によりアドレスラインに同期して並列に画像信号を供給する。その結果アドレスラインに沿ったスイフトトランジスタ群が“ON”状態になり、容量に画像信号が蓄積される。蓄積した画像信号は1画面の

にSi基板(1)を補強する目的で補強板(9)をSi基板(1)に重ねる。

第3図は第2図で示した表示パネルを外部の駆動回路と接続する場合に従来用いられて来た方法を示す。即ち、外部回路基板(10)上には配線導体(11)が形成されていて、駆動用のICチップ(12)が所定の回路に従って配置されている。この外部駆動回路と表示パネルは、表示パネルの背面の支持板(13)を用いて固定する。

この為、ICチップ(12)と配線導体(11)又は配線導体(11)と表示パネルの電極(4)との間を通常のワイヤボンディング装置によりワイヤー(14)を用いて相互に接続する。ワイヤボンディング方式は、通常のICチップをパッケージに実装する場合のように高密度に配置した電極端子の接続には適している。しかし、ここで取り上げるような表示パネルを駆動するためには外部回路との間に数百本に及ぶ接続をしなければならない。この場合に、1本1本のワイヤーの接続方式ではボンディング作業が複雑で、ボンディング不良に起因した実装歩留

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したが、ガラス基板上にアモルファスSiを用いて、TFT (Thin film Transistor) スイッチング素子を形成し、これを外部回路基板と接続する場合にも同様の効果を及ぼす。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は液晶マトリクス表示パネルの電気等価回路を説明する図、第2図は液晶表示パネルの概略断面図、第3図は液晶表示パネルと外部駆動回路を接続する従来の方法を示す図、第4図は本発明の液晶表示装置における液晶表示パネルと外部駆動回路を接続した構造を説明する図、第5図は第4図における液晶表示パネルと外部駆動回路の接続部を拡大して説明する図である。

(1) ... Si 基板

(9) ... 補強板

(10, (11')) ... 外部回路基板

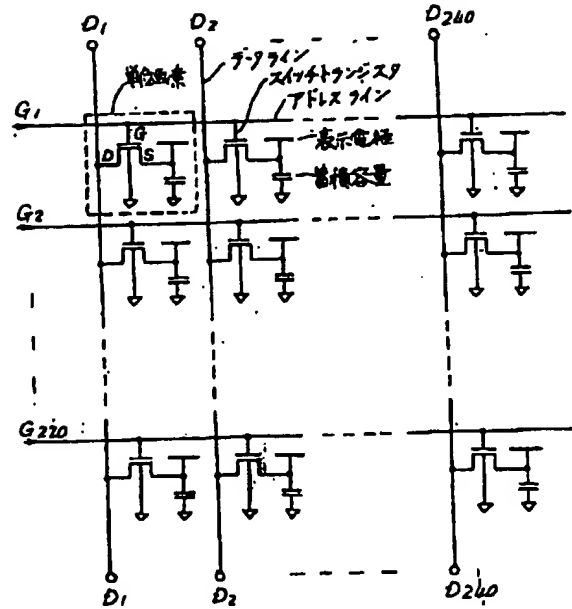
(13, (13')) ... ICチップ

(15) ... 弾性コネクタ

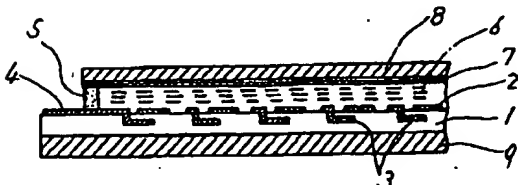
代理人 弁理士 則 近 恵 佑

(ほか1名)

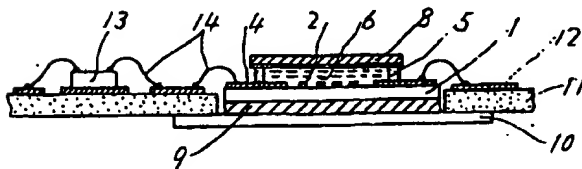
第 1 図



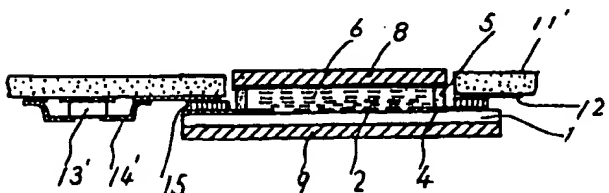
第 2 図



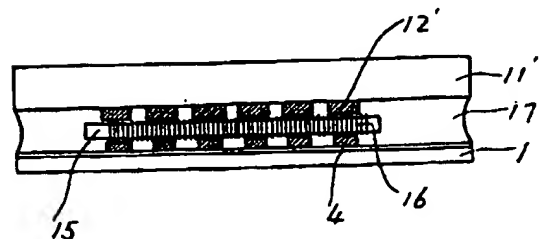
第 3 図



第 4 図



第 5 図



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English Translation of JP58-207073**(19) Japanese Patent Office (JP)****(11) Publication Number: Sho 58-207073****(43) Date of Publication of Application: December 2, 1983****5 (12) Patent Laid-open Official Gazette (A)****(51) Int.Cl.³****G 09 F 9/00****G 02 F 1/133****The Number of Invention: 1 (4 pages in total)****10 Request of Examination: not made****(54) Title of the Invention: LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE****(21) Application Number: Sho 57-89896****(22) Date of Filing: May 28, 1982****(71) Applicant: Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., Ltd.****15 72 Horikawa-cho, Saiwai-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Japan****(72) Inventor: Tadashi TSUTSUMI****c/o Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., Ltd.****72 Horikawa-cho, Saiwai-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Japan****(74) Representatives: Patent attorney:****20 Kensuke NORICHIKA and another****Specification****1. [Title of the Invention]****LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE****25 2. [Scope of Claim]****1) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising:****a liquid crystal display panel including a liquid crystal sealed between a pair of electrode substrates at least one of which is formed of a semiconductor switching element group arranged in matrix; and****30 an external circuit substrate on which an external circuit required for driving the display panel is****JP58-207073**

mounted and which has an opening to put the display panel in and connecting terminals disposed at the periphery of the opening,

wherein the display panel substrate and the external circuit substrate are disposed to face each other and electrically connected by a conductive anisotropic elastic connector interposed therebetween.

2) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, characterized in that an epoxy adhesive is sealed between the two substrates in order to fix the arrangement of the display panel substrate, the conductive anisotropic elastic connector and the external circuit substrate.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

10 (Industrial Field of the Invention)

The present invention relates to a method of electrical connection between a solid state display panel and an external peripheral circuit required for driving the display panel.

(Prior Art and Problems to be Solved by the Invention)

As a substitute for a CRT (Cathode Ray Tube), a flat-screen solid state display panel utilizing EL (electroluminescence), LED, liquid crystal and the like has been put into practical use to display images. In the CRT, an electron beam spot is sequentially scanned on a fluorescent screen to display images. On the other hand, in the flat-screen solid state display panel, a voltage is sequentially applied to intersections of rows and columns that are arranged in matrix, and images are displayed by utilizing EL light emission, LED light emission, and light transmission and reflection by the alignment of liquid crystals. Accordingly, in the case of achieving higher definition of displayed images or increasing image data to be displayed in the flat-screen solid state display panel, the panel is required to include a number of rows and columns arranged in matrix. In addition, since each signal is required to be inputted independently, as many terminals as rows and columns are needed for connecting the matrix display panel to a circuit for driving the panel. For instance, in order to achieve a high definition display, 200 to 500 rows and columns are arranged. Thus, as many as 400 to 1000 terminals for each of the rows and columns are provided for connecting the panel to the external driver circuit, leading to the increased cost which is inevitable in view of reliably and accurately connecting each terminal. Further, in order to achieve a high definition display, rows and columns are needed to be arranged at a narrow pitch, which requires advanced connection

technologies for dense packaging. Conventionally, such connection is generally performed by a wire bonding method utilizing an Au thin wire with a diameter of about $15\ \mu\phi$ that is used for building an IC. However, as compared with the IC that typically has only 20 to 30 connecting terminals, the display panel has much more connecting terminals and occupies a larger
5 connecting area. Therefore, reliability of connection, in particular physical connection strength is reduced as well as connecting yield.

As a way to solve the aforementioned problem, a driver circuit and electrodes of a display matrix may be integrally formed on the same substrate by using a Si single crystalline substrate or an amorphous semiconductor thin film to reduce terminals connected to an external
10 circuit. However, in the case of a large display panel, it is much more expensive to integrally form a driver circuit that involves many manufacturing steps on a part of the large display panel as compared with to independently form the panel and the driver circuit and connect them to each other. FIG. 1 shows an electrical equivalent circuit of a display portion (pixel). Each unit pixel comprises a switching transistor (high voltage MOSFET), a storage capacitor, and a liquid
15 crystal display electrode, and 220×240 unit pixels are arranged in matrix. Gates of the switching transistors in each row are connected to a common address line G_1, G_2, \dots or G_{220} . Drains of the switching transistors in each column are connected to a common data line D_1, D_2, \dots or D_{240} . The address lines G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{220} are driven by an external circuit by a line sequential driving method. The data lines D_1, D_2, \dots, D_{240} are also driven by an external circuit
20 to supply an image signal in synchronism with the address lines. As a result, a switching transistor group connected to a common address line is turned ON and the image signal is stored in the capacitor. The stored image signal is held during a scan period of one screen and a liquid crystal on the display electrode is statically driven.

Such transistor, storage capacitor, display electrode and the like arranged in matrix are
25 formed by the same steps as a normal MOS transistor formed on a Si wafer. When the size of a pixel is $150\ \mu \times 150\ \mu$ for example, the pitch of the data lines is $150\ \mu$ as well as the pitch of the address lines, and external terminals connected to the external circuit are also arranged at substantially the same pitch in order to achieve compact package of the display panel.

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view showing a structure of a display panel. Over a Si
30 substrate (1) including a MOS transistor array, an electrode group (2) for constituting an address

line, an electrode group (3) for constituting a data line, and an external connecting terminal (4) for connecting these electrode groups to an external portion are formed in matrix. A liquid crystal material (6) is sealed over the Si substrate with a sealing member (5). A transparent conductive film (7) is attached to a front glass substrate (8) in advance in order to be used as one of electrodes needed for applying a voltage to the liquid crystal. In the case of such display panel being formed, the Si substrate (1) is overlapped with a reinforcement board (9) for reinforcing the Si substrate (1).

FIG. 3 shows a conventional method of connecting the display panel shown in FIG. 2 to the external driver circuit. A wire conductor (12) is formed over an external circuit substrate (11), and a driver IC chip (13) is disposed in accordance with a predetermined circuit. This external driver circuit and the display panel are attached by using a support board (10) on the back side of the display panel.

Accordingly, the IC chip (13) and the wire conductor (12), or the wire conductor (12) and the electrode (4) of the display panel are connected to each other with a wire (14) by using a normal wire bonding device. The wire bonding method is suitable for connecting electrode terminals that are densely arranged as in the case of a normal IC chip being mounted into a package. However, in order to drive the display panel described herein, it is required to be connected to the external circuit through a few hundreds of terminals. In that case, the bonding with wires is likely to be complicated, and it is expected that package yield due to a defective bonding is considerably reduced. In addition, in the case that defects occur in the display panel during the packaging steps, it is difficult to detach the panel display portion from the external circuit substrate to be replaced. Thus, the external driver circuit as well as the display panel has to be discarded, which may prevent the lower cost of the display device.

(Purpose of the Invention)

As a way to solve the aforementioned problems of the wire bonding method that is conventionally used for packaging, the invention provides a method of electrically connecting the display panel including densely arranged wires described herein to the external circuit including driver circuits by using a conductive anisotropic elastic connector.

(Constitution of the Invention)

A liquid crystal display device of the invention comprises a liquid crystal display panel

including a liquid crystal sealed between a pair of electrode substrates at least one of which is formed of a semiconductor switching element group arranged in matrix, and an external circuit substrate on which an external circuit required for driving the display panel is mounted and which has an opening to put the display panel in and connecting terminals disposed at the periphery of the opening. The display panel substrate and the external circuit substrate are disposed to face each other and electrically connected by a conductive anisotropic elastic connector interposed therebetween.

(Embodiments of the Invention)

FIG. 4 is a cross sectional view showing a structure in the case of a display panel and an external circuit substrate being connected according to the invention. A display panel in FIG. 4 is constituted by a Si substrate (1) including an electric circuit as shown in FIG. 1, a wire (2) arranged in matrix, an electrode terminal (4), a liquid crystal material (6), a front glass (8) and the like.

An external circuit is constituted by a ceramic substrate (11') used as an example of a circuit substrate, a conductive wire and a terminal (12') formed thereover by thick film printing, and an IC (13') which is required for driving the display panel and connected to the substrate (11') with a lead (14') by a TAB (Tape Automated Bonding) method or the like.

The terminal (4) over the display panel substrate (1) and the terminal (12') over the external circuit substrate (11') are formed at the same pitch and connected to each other. The electrodes (4) and (12') over the two substrates are overlapped so as to face each other with an elastic connector (15) interposed therebetween. The connection using such elastic connector is described with reference to FIG. 5. In FIG. 5, a transistor, a capacitor and the like to constitute a pixel of a display panel are formed on a Si substrate 1 by the same steps as a normal MOS process. An electrode terminal (4) is generally formed of an Al deposited film with a thickness of 1 μ by a photo etching method. The elastic connector (15) in a stripe shape with a thickness of about 1 nm is formed over the Al thin film electrode terminal and temporarily fixed with an appropriate adhesive. The main body of the elastic connector (15) is formed of elastic gum, and a thin metal wire (16) is put therein at intervals of 20 to 40 μ . Both ends of the metal wire protrude from the surface by about 5 to 15 μ .

Accordingly, as is evident from FIG. 5, the Al thin film terminal (4) over the Si substrate

(1) and the thick film printed electrode terminal (12') over the external circuit substrate (11') are electrically connected through the metal wire (16) in the connector (15). When packaging the display panel, the external circuit substrate (1), the elastic connector and the display panel substrate are stacked first as shown in FIG. 4 to form a sandwich structure and temporarily fixed in a mechanical manner. Then, display properties are tested, and in the case of a defect being detected in the display panel, it can be easily detached and replaced by another display panel. In the case of the display properties being verified, for example an epoxy adhesive (17) or the like is sealed between the external circuit substrate and the display panel substrate to permanently fix the arrangement of the external circuit substrate, the connector and the display panel substrate. In the case of connecting by using such epoxy mold, even when changes in external environment, in particular changes in temperature cause a deformation due to thermal expansion, a reliable connection can be achieved since the connector portion is formed of an elastic material and the metal wire for connection has a spring action. Although the Si semiconductor substrate and the external circuit substrate are connected in this embodiment, the invention can also be applied to the case in which TFT (Thin Film Transistor) switching elements are formed over a glass substrate by using amorphous Si and connected to the external circuit substrate.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a view showing an electrical equivalent circuit of a liquid crystal matrix display panel, FIG. 2 is a schematic cross sectional view of a liquid crystal display panel, FIG. 3 is a view showing a conventional connecting method of a liquid crystal display panel and an external driver circuit, FIG. 4 is a view showing a structure in the case of a liquid crystal display panel and an external driver circuit of a liquid crystal display device being connected by the invention, and FIG. 5 is a magnified view of a connecting portion of the liquid crystal display panel and the external driver circuit shown in FIG. 4.

(1) Si substrate (9) reinforcement board (11)(11') external circuit substrate (13)(13')
IC chip (15) elastic connector

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